

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

November 12, 2008

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DOCUMENTARY RELEASED REGARDING CHILD VICTIMS OF METH IN WISCONSIN

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced today the release of *Living in Shadows: The Innocent Victims of Meth*, a 26-minute documentary produced to bring attention to child victims living in drug environments.

Children living where illegal drugs are manufactured, possessed, distributed or used are at high risk of abuse and neglect, and are relegated to the shadows of their care giver's addiction. This documentary shares the personal stories of several courageous individuals from across Wisconsin who grew up in drug homes. Their care givers also tell their stories and describe treatment and reunification challenges and successes.

United States Attorney Peterson announced that his office will be providing without charge over 1,800 DVD copies to organizations throughout Wisconsin, such as drug treatment programs, schools, social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, church groups, jails, and medical service providers. A community night to debut the documentary with a panel of documentary participants will be scheduled.

United States Attorney Peterson said, "I hope that *Living in Shadows* will be used across Wisconsin and the country to increase awareness of the problems faced by children living in drug homes, and the importance of having resources and guidance available to break the cycle of drug abuse."

Living in Shadows was produced by Rucinski and Reetz Communication, LLC, of Mosinee, Wis. Funding was provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, awarded to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin. Additional funding was provided by the Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, Marathon County Sheriff's Department, and Ministry Health Care.

For information about Wisconsin's Drug Endangered Children program, call 1-888-415-9821 and speak with Andrea LeStarge or Barb Williams, or go to www.WisconsinDEC.org; click on "Resources" and you will find the link to *Living in Shadows*.

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